

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/040,813	DOMOTO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Michael S. Brooke	2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to _____.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. The drawings filed on 07 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 02/06/03
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.



Michael S. Brooke
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2853

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Geza Ziegler on 06/15/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

1. (amended) A dryer assembly for drying a liquid ink image formed on a substrate, the assembly comprising:
 - (a) a housing defining a portion of a sheet moving path;
 - (b) a plenum positioned within the housing, the plenum including air flow and outlet means contiguous to the plenum permitting forced air to exit the plenum, the outlet means being in the form of a plurality of [moving] openings that move relative to the housing and are adapted to direct flowing air through the openings to the liquid image, the openings moving relative to the image; and
 - (c) a substrate transport device for moving the substrate carrying the liquid ink image through the housing and under the plurality of moving openings so as to quickly dry the liquid ink image.

Cancel claim 5.

18. (amended) An ink jet printing machine for printing a liquid ink image on a sheet of paper moving along a sheet path through a printing zone therein, the ink jet printing machine, comprising:

- (a) a frame;
- (b) a printhead mounted on the frame and containing liquid ink for depositing a liquid ink image onto the sheet of paper;
- (c) a dryer assembly for drying the liquid ink image on the sheet of paper, the dryer assembly including:
 - (i) a housing defining a portion of the paper sheet moving path;
 - (ii) a plenum positioned within the housing, the plenum including air flow and an outlet means permitting forced air to exit the plenum, the outlet being in the form of a plurality of [moving] openings that move relative to the housing and are adapted to direct flowing air to the liquid image, the openings moving relative to the image;
 - (iii) a paper sheet transport means for moving the paper carrying the liquid ink image through the housing and under the plurality of moving openings; and
- (d) a controller connected to a forced air feeding device

for controllably blowing air onto the sheet only when there is sheet movement through the housing of the sheet.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Candor et al. (3,592,585) teaches a dryer for sheet-like materials that has a perforated drying belt with openings that move relative to the housing. However, the belt moves at substantially the same speed as the sheet; thus, there would not be any relative motion between the openings and the image.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael S. Brooke whose telephone number is (571) 272-2142. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 5:30 AM-2:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen D. Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Michael S. Brooke
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MSB
06/17/04